

Appl. No. : 10/756,892
Filed : January 14, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 16, 2005, please reconsider the above-referenced application in light of the following amendments and comments.

Election/Restrictions

Claims 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 35-39 were withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species of the invention. These claims depend upon independent Claim 21. As noted below, independent Claim 21 has been allowed. Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 21 is generic to the species associated with Claims 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 35-39. As such, Applicant respectfully request that these withdrawn claims now be considered and allowed. These claims are in condition for allowance because, *inter alia*, they depend upon either directly or indirectly upon allowable Claim 21.

In this Amendment, the remaining withdrawn claims (i.e., Claims 3, 6-8, 10-11, 16-20 and 40-56) have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim Objections

Applicant has made non-narrowing amendments to Claims 1 and 15 to correct the informalities in Claims 1 and 15.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 21, 22, 24, 25, 28 and 31-34 are in condition for allowance. As noted above, Applicant has requested that Claims 23, 26, 27, 29, 30, and 35-39 be considered and allowed. Thus, Applicant submits that Claims 21-39 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 2 and 9 would be in condition for allowance if they are written into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claim 2 has been canceled and incorporated into independent Claim 1. Thus, Applicant submits that Claim 1, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Claims 4, 5, 9, and 12-15 depend upon Claim 1 and, for at least this reason, these claims are in condition for allowance.

With respect to Claim 9, this claim has been rewritten into independent form and is presented as new Claim 57. Applicant submits that this claim is in condition for allowance.

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New Claims 58-63 correspond to original Claims 4, 5 and 12-15. These claims depend upon allowable Claim 57 and, for at least this reason, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Supplemental IDS

With this Amendment, Applicant is submitting a supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Applicant respectfully requests that the references cited therein be considered.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the rejections in the case and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 11-15-05

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